

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Phillip D. Ridder, Jr.
Sixth Ward Constable
Tangipahoa Parish
12295 Hwy. 1064
Tickfaw, Louisiana 70466

**Re: Louisiana Board of Ethics
Docket No. 2021-104**

Dear Constable Ridder:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics ("Board"), at its April 9, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") would prohibit you from opening a checking account in the name of the Office of the Sixth Ward Constable and donating money to that account to purchase a Louisiana State Police unit.

FACTS PROVIDED

On November 3, 2020, you were elected the Constable/Justice of the Peace for Ward 6 in Tangipahoa Parish. As constable, you would like to purchase a used Louisiana State Police Unit from the State Surplus. However, there is no checking account or other funds available to purchase the unit. You have inquired as to whether the Code would prohibit you from: 1) opening a checking account in the name of the Office of the Sixth Ward Constable in Tangipahoa Parish; and, 2) donating your personal funds in order to purchase the unit.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1123(30) provides that a public servant, a legal entity in which he has a controlling interest, or a member of his immediate family may donate services, movable property, or funds to his agency.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that based on the facts presented, the Code would not prohibit you from: 1) opening a checking account in the name of the Office of the Sixth Ward Constable in Tangipahoa Parish; and, 2) donating your personal funds in order to purchase the unit. There is no provision in the Code that would prohibit you from opening

a checking account for your office. Additionally, La. R.S. 42:1123(30) provides that you may donate funds to your agency.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

LaToya D. Jordan
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics. No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.